



Gina McCarthy
Commissioner

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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Dear Friends:

Thank you for your recent letter urging me to issue an executive order to reduce pollution from diesel fueled transit buses and state construction equipment. Like you, I am concerned about the quality of Connecticut's environment and the health of our citizens.

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has been in the forefront in developing and implementing effective programs to address diesel pollution. The DEP has developed a diesel emission reduction strategy known as the Clean Diesel Plan (the Plan), to reduce the health risks from existing engines and diesel air pollution. The Plan was submitted to the General Assembly in January 2006 and may be found at <http://www.ct.gov/dep/lib/dep/air/diesel/docs/ctcleandieselplanfinal.pdf>.

Consistent with the Plan, Connecticut is implementing a diesel emissions reduction strategy for the following sectors:

- **Transit buses:** reduce diesel particulate matter from transit buses by not less than 85% by December 31, 2010;
- **School buses:** maximize diesel particulate matter emission reductions from school buses by installing diesel retrofit technologies or by implementing a plan to retire older school buses;
- **Construction equipment:** maximize particulate matter emissions reductions from construction equipment servicing state construction projects valued at \$5 million.

Connecticut's Department of Transportation and municipalities across the state are partnering with us to achieve the reductions.

We appreciate your interest in our air quality and support for cleaner diesel.

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